



Town of Chesapeake City

Quarterly Newsletter

July 2013

Town Council, the Mayor and the staff at town hall will be providing an update to the residents, property owners and business owners of Chesapeake City on a quarterly basis. As many folks in town are busy and unable to attend town meetings the newsletter will give you an overview on what the town is working on and has achieved since your last water bill. We do encourage everyone in our community to attend meetings when time permits, our monthly "voting" meeting is the second Monday of the month, and the "workshop" meeting is the fourth Monday of the month. The town website is also an excellent source of information, for those with Internet access the address is www.chesapeakecity-md.gov.

Public Works and Water/Sewer Departments-

Councilman Wells asked me to write a final newsletter this quarter, probably to help fill the page. The summer of 2013 has brought a lot of new things to Chesapeake City. The new water supply to town is now a full reality. The water is flowing without incident to the entire town with only minor start up issues. The staff is working to determine the best path forward on the towers and now unused water plants. As one of my goals on council, I wanted to see this happen which I am thrilled to be a major player in this long process. I want to thank all who contributed and voted to see this happen.

The new water meter installation is nearly complete. This new technology allows us to read the meters in minutes from the town maintenance vehicle. The full benefit of this will take years to learn as we can help locate leaks in the system and on private property. Future newsletters will spell out these benefits by my successor. Both of these projects were funded with State and Federal money that was reduced from over a million to just about \$120,000.00. It took a lot of work and help again, from the staff to make this happen. The extended cost savings to town will be a benefit for a long time.

My third objective as W&S commissioner was to pave the way for a new single sewer plant. A lot of discussion has brought this closer to reality but not during my term(s). I have survived 5 elections and served 8 years on council. Linda and I contributed quite a few years on the Civic Association plus my several terms as President. I started the Lions Club car show which should continue to be a major fundraiser for the club in the future. The Lions club is a real asset to the town and its residents especially in time of need. I hope I have contributed on many fronts including promoting the town, helping to beautify the parks and landscape areas, etc. When you reach the end of your street each day, you can look at the street sign and say you know the guy who designed that. I might add it took a full year of negotiations to bring them to a final design and materials.

About 6 months ago, my daughter called me to inform me that my favorite farm in Pennsylvania was for sale. One thing lead to another and at this point, Linda and I 'bought the farm' so to speak (in Chester County, PA). Chesapeake City will always remain in our hearts as a favorite place to visit and dine. We sincerely hope future generations of town leaders continue on this path. Linda's garden is moving north.

As I close on my comments, I again want to thank all who helped me in our endeavors and wish you well.

Ron Francis

Council 2004-2007, 2008 - 2013

Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation and Docks-

Anyone interested in a position on planning and zoning please contact Town Hall. With the recent council elections there are some openings. You may have noticed we spruced up Helen Titter Park a bit behind the playground equipment. More improvements to follow. - **Elaine Shepard**

Public Relations, Chamber of Commerce and Little League. -

The Little League is in full swing, whenever the weather allows. I have been transitioning into the Water and Sewer for the

past few weeks. Looks like a lot of work to be done. - **Harry E. Sampson**

Finance and Historic

For the 2013/2014 fiscal year, the Town passed a General Fund budget of \$644,375. Local taxes, including those on real property, personal property, and income, generate 75% of the Town's revenue. The remaining 25% of income is derived from various sources such as intergovernmental revenues from the County and State, leased boat slips, holiday light sponsorships, and 5K runs. Major categories of expense include Town staff, public safety, public works, waste collection, and parks and recreation. If you have any questions about the budget, please visit Town Hall or attend a regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council.

The Historic District Commission now meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in Town Hall. Please submit applications for permit approval to Town Hall at least seven days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Historic District guidelines apply to all buildings, sheds, gazebos, fences, and signs.

On a personal note, it has been a privilege to serve you as a member of Council for the past six years. Thank you. -**Rich Taylor**

Public Safety, Charter, Ethics, Tourism and Newsletter

By the time you receive this letter you may have noticed two changes in town. The first is that the town installed gates on the canal road, one by the north side docks and the second just west of the area where the second tier roads drop down to the road along the canal. No motorized vehicles will have access to the canal road in Chesapeake City! Once the Canal Trail is complete the gate by the north side dock will be replaced with something more attractive. The town did this at very little cost, David and TJ installed the gates and a special thanks to Ron and Linda Francis for donating them! The second change you will notice is that effective July 1st the Fire Siren will no longer be in service. The Fire Department will be using high tech pagers to communicate emergencies with their volunteers. Last year we purchased a "Your Speed" sign and based on feedback from the community it has been effective in slowing down traffic in town. Council has approved the purchase of two more signs. We have six locations around town with the new signs a "your speed" sign will be at each location 50% of the time. On or around August 1st the state will be replacing the sidewalks on Biddle Street to meet ADA standards; they will be 5 feet wide and have the appropriate ramps at each street corner. The sidewalk will be extended on the canal side of the road from where it currently ends to the corner of Hemphill St. Two crosswalks will be installed, one at Union and Biddle and one at Hemphill and Biddle, this should help in slowing traffic down. All aprons will be replaced (the portion of your driveway from the sidewalk to the street) and those without aprons will have them installed.

The weekend of July 5th, 6th and 7th will be busy in town. The night of the 5th we will have Fireworks, the display this year will be twice the size as last year! The Fireworks are sponsored by the Chesapeake Inn, Schaefer's and the Town of Chesapeake City. On Saturday the 6th we will have a Liberty Walk, similar to Ghost Walk with a different theme. Sunday the 7th will be the start of Music in the Park, this is sponsored by the Civic Association with the support of residents and businesses in town, they will continue each Sunday through Labor Day.

We are continuing to work on an Arts and Entertainment District in town and will have more about that in the next newsletter. Effective July 1st we will have new water rates going into effect, they will not impact 99% of the users in town. The new rates are posted on our website. - **Bert Wells**